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The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

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Sixty-third year

Letter dated 5 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to inform you about the latest developments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Since early morning on 4 March 2008, the Armenian occupying forces have grossly violated the ceasefire regime, which led to escalation.

The Azerbaijani Army repulsed the attacks and delivered a heavy blow to the occupying forces. There are casualties. Four Azerbaijani military personnel were killed and one was injured. The Armenian forces lost 12 military personnel and 15 were injured. In accordance with the information received from the Armenian officials, one member of the Armenian military personnel was blown up on a mine, which proves the fact that the Armenian forces were on the attack.

This is a clear provocation by Armenia. By violating the ceasefire regime Armenia tries to conceal the internal tension after the presidential elections held on 1 March 2008 from the attention of the international community.

The international community, namely, the United Nations press release (SG/SM/11447), the European Union High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (S093/08), the European Union Presidency (http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/March/0403MZZ_Armenia.html), the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe (www.coe.int/press) and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (press release 151 (2008)), expressed their deep concern about the situation in Yerevan after the presidential elections, in particular about the excessive use of force by the Armenian authorities against the demonstrators, as a result of which at least 8 people have been killed and scores of people were injured.

The violation of the ceasefire regime by Armenia is clearly directed to divert the attention of its citizens and the international community from the internal difficulties.

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Use of force obviously has already become a traditional method not only in the foreign policy, but also in the domestic policy, of the Armenian Government. That is a very unfortunate fact.

I should be grateful if the present letter were urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative